## **Town Hall Plan**

(continued from page 1)

volves a ventilating system and two timed heat sensitive thermostats, painting and repair of both the interior and exterior, new lighting and a sprinkler system.

Buildling Inspector James Litchfield challenged Donham on the building code regula-

Paul

Benzaquin

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tions concerning the fireproofing of the Recreation offices converted from dressing rooms. Litchfield claimed that proper safeguarding of this area was not adequately afforded under the Committee's plan. Donham said that the Town Hall had been accepted by the Massachusetts Historic Commission and

by the State Building Code Commission as as partially preserved building, and that the stipulations to which Litchfield referred applied only to the construction of a new building. The proposed changes in a partially preserved building are allowed via modifications in the code and in this case, as long as a total fire warning system is working within the building and connected to the fire department, exemptions could be made for the fireproof doors the Town Hall is lack-

Most of the discussion revolved around the pros and cons of buying the professional building on Route 3A for use as a Town Hall. Arthur Clark, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, said that he was speaking for most of the Town Hall employees in his dislike of the Committee's proposal.

"You've done almost the same thing as the way it is now, except you've moved the Selectmen downstairs. You've made no provisions to house the departments while construction is going on. Guess we'll just have to live here during it," Clark said.

during it," Clark said.

Clark also disapproved of what he thought would be cramped file rooms and even busier offices downstairs. "I urge you to look at the professional building on Route 3A. It is a bargain the town can't afford to let go by at \$325,000," he concluded.

Donham said that, according to his figures, the 3A building needs \$81,000 worth of renovation including partition changes and installation of insulated glass. A few residents questioned this figure which is to be added to the cost of the building, but Donham stood by his estimate.

Town Accountant William Signorelli urged the Committee to consider another option for a new Town Hall. He said he found it difficult to justify having the same facility for all the money involved; he found the location of the vault inefficient and the continuous

need to move records back and forth of great concern.

Alfred Odermatt, while uring the purchase of the professional building, informed Chairman Cotton that he had initiated a petition which will bew submitted as a citizen's article at Town Meeting, advising townspeople to buy the building and seeking an appropriation for it.

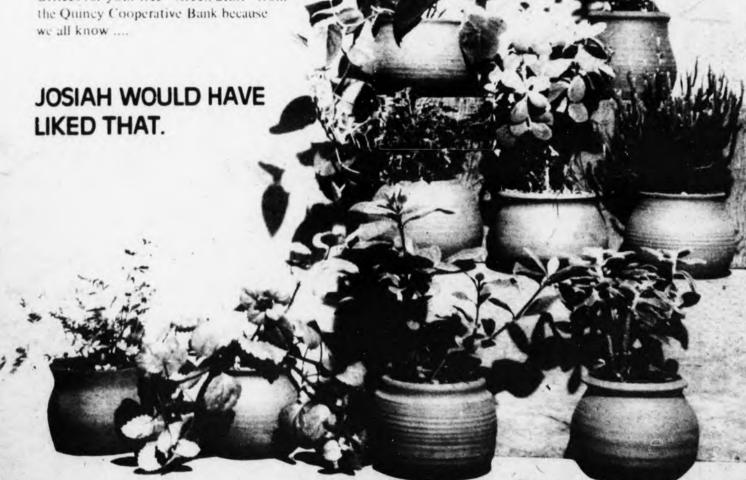
Cotton said that it had been the Committee's desire to submit one article concerning a proposal for the Town Hall because they feared the inability of the people to make up their minds. "If we could not make up our minds on a single thing," Cotton said of the Committee, "then the town wouldn't be able to either."

The Committee will sponsor the following article at the annual Town Meeting: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000 to be expended by the Committee to Study Space Needs for Town Offices for the preparation of detailed plans, working drawings and specifications in connection with the renovation of the Town Hall and its office space and for the securing of bids for the same or anything else relating there to.

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